public sector telecommunication companies *viz.*, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) where the average staff to telephone ratio is 13 per 1000 telephone lines, which is higher than international figures. However, manpower shortage is felt in certain cadres in Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) where there is a phenomenal growth of the teledensity Measures are taken to recruit staff, where required.

Dual Charge for Telephone Engineers at Idgah Exchange

†450. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those Zonal Engineers/Sub-Zonal Engineers working in Idgah Telephone Exchange of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited who have double charges of Sub-Zonal Engineers (Field) as well as cable and the details of those having not any charge;

(b) the reasons for entrusting double charge to some engineers and keeping others idle; and

(c) by when the additional charge from the Engineers having double charge would be taken back and handed over to the Engineers sitting idle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are two Divisions in Idgah telephone exchange. In Division-I, there are four Sub-Divisional Engineers who are responsible for outdoor plant including maintenance of cable network for their respective demarcated areas.

In Division-II, there are five Sub-Divisional Engineers (SDEs). Out of them three SDEs are in charge of external plant of their respective areas and two SDEs are responsible for maintenance of cable network of Division-II. There are no SDEs who are without charge.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Disputes before TRAI

451. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.